

top of which are graves covered with heavy  
stone slabs  
with inscriptions on their sides, and head-  
stones eight  
feet high inscribed with epitaphs in Kufic or  
early Arabic,  
we descended upon the great plain of  
Bahwan, separated  
from the plain of Mush only by a very low  
ridge, which,  
however, is a remarkable water-parting,  
dividing the  
drainage systems of the Tigris and the  
Euphrates. On  
this solitary plain there are the ruins of a  
magnificent  
building, known as " the Persian Khan," built  
of large  
blocks of hewn stone. Parts of it are still  
available  
for shelter during snowstorms. It has  
courtyards with  
stately entrances, domes, arches, and  
vaulted chambers,  
and is a very striking object. Two other  
*khans* are  
placed as refuges in the valley nearer Bitlis.  
Shortly afterwards we reached the  
meeting-place of  
three valleys and three roads, leading  
respectively to the  
plain of Mush, the lake of Van,,and Bitlis.  
It is in  
this neighbourhood that the eastern source  
of the Tigris  
is situated, and here there is also the great  
interest of  
coming upon one of the landmarks on the  
retreat of the  
Ten Thousand. Scholars appear to agree in  
general that  
this gallant band must have come up by  
these eastern  
sources of the Tigris, for then, as now, the only  
practicable  
entrance into Armenia from the Karduchi  
territory, the  
modern Kurdistan, was by this route.<sup>1</sup>  
The march was very long and fatiguing,  
and as we

<sup>1</sup> It does not present any difficulty to me that  
Xenophon omits all  
mention of the lake of Van, for a range of hills lies

"between it and the  
road. I have travelled over the track twice, and failed  
to see anything  
in the configuration of the country which would have led  
me to suppose  
that the region to the eastward was anything but a  
continuity of ranges of  
hills and mountains, and if the Ten Thousand took the  
route from the  
eastern head-waters of the Tigris to the Murad-chai at  
the farther end of  
the plain of Mush, directing all their investigations and  
inquiries in a  
westerly direction, there are very many chances against  
their having been  
informed, even by their prisoners, of the existence of the  
sea of Van.